

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending in this Application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 5, 9 and 17 are amended. Support for the amendment may be found, for example, in paragraphs [0025] and [0026]. Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

CLAIM REJECTIONS - 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Cherrington et al. ("Cherrington"), U.S. Patent No. 6,070,155 in view of Melick et al. ("Melick"), U.S. Patent Publication No. 2001/0047283 A1. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants submit that Cherrington and Melick, individually or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest, *inter alia*, "the stored receipt inspection reporting data includes defect codes for assigning different categories of defect to facilitate access of the database", as recited in claims 1, 5, 9 and 17.

Applicants have read the entire passages of Cherrington and cannot locate any portion in Cherrington that teaches the feature of "defect codes". The Examiner alleged that "the inspection requests information [provides] different categories of defect, such as on the brake pedal, the parking brake, the panel lights and the wheels of the vehicle"¹. However, Applicants submit that "brake pedal", "parking brakes", "panel lights" and "wheels of the vehicle" are merely systems of an automobile that is inspected by the receipt inspection reporting data for defects. There is no mention of defect codes identified in the defects of Cherrington to help facilitate access of the database. Further, Cherrington is completely silent that the "defect codes are assigned different categories".

¹ Office Action, page 3, 1st paragraph.

As an example embodiment of the present invention, the receipt inspection reporting RIR data stored within the database 44 may be categorized in two main categories, e.g., a physical category and a document category. Within each of these defect categories, defect subcategories may be provided, including within the physical category, a mechanical subcategory and an electrical subcategory; and within the document category, an operating and maintenance subcategory (O&M), a Quality Record Package (QRP) subcategory, and a shipment documents subcategory. Based upon the categorized defects, defect codes may be additionally assigned and stored with the RIR data within the database 44 to facilitate access and to analyze the data. A predetermined list of descriptions for defect codes may be provided for easier identification and standardization of the defects. For example, defects that commonly occur may be identified with a defect code which accompanies short description of the defect (e.g., corrosion).

Melick is used for the limited teaching of applying the Internet to the inspection reporting system, and also fails to overcome the noted deficiency of Cherrington. Thus, the combination of Cherrington and Melick cannot be sustained to make an obviousness rejection.

Accordingly, Cherrington and Melick, individually or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest, "the stored receipt inspection reporting data includes defect codes for assigning different categories of defect to facilitate access of the database", as recited in claims 1, 5, 9 and 17.

For at least these reasons, Applicants submit that Cherrington and Melick, individually or in combination, fail to disclose or render obvious the features in independent claims 1, 5, 9 and 17. Claims 2-4, 6-8, 10-16 and 18-20 which depend from the independent claims are likewise distinguished over the applied art for at least the reasons discussed above, as well as for the additional features they recite. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Accordingly, in view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the rejections and allowance of each of claims 1-20 in connection with the present application is earnestly solicited.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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